A

LETTER

FROM A

PATRIOT in RETIREMENT,

To the RIGHT HONOURABLE

Mr. WILLIAM PITT,

Upon Reſigning his Employment.

Hoc caverat mens provida Reguli,
Diſſentientis conditionibus
Foedis, et exemplo trahenti
Perniciem veniens in Ævum.
HOR. Lib. III. Od. 5.

"Fear, admitted into public Counſels,
"Betrays like treaſon."
ADDISON's Cato.

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12.

Bookſeller to the Reader.

I AM ordered to inform the Public, that great part of this pamphlet was in the preſs a month ago: but the finiſhing and publication of it have been retarded, by a very diſagreeable accident, that intermediately happened in the author's family.

SIR,

THOUGH the news-writers, to the great reproach of the government, pretend to tell us what paſſes in the cabinet, as confidently and familiarly as if they were members of it; I deſire to avail myſelf no farther of public rumour, than is neceſſary to make appoſite, the Latin motto I have prefixed to this trifling lucubration, And if, as we are informed, the ſchiſm in his Majeſty's counſels, has been created by a continuance of that ſpirit in your's, to which we ſtand indebted for the many advantages we have gained over our enemies; the propriety of the quotation, and your right to be ſur-

named the Engliſh Regulus, become equally unqueſtionable.

The deſcription I have taken the liberty to give of myſelf as a patriot, in this addreſs to you, is as little fictitious, as any thing elſe you will find there. I am a moſt unfeigned friend to my country; and have aſſerted my claim to that character, in the preſent inſtance, as a collateral proof of my being your's. For to love my country, and not to love you, who have been the greateſt benefactor to it ever yet known, would be a kind of paradox. Your deſire to be a man of buſineſs, and, when occaſion offer'd, of ſignalizing yourſelf in the ſervice of the public, ſhewed itſelf, from your very youth, to be a ruling inclination in you. Accordingly, you applied

plied yourſelf to the buſineſs of parliament, as ſoon as ever you had got a ſeat there: wiſely foreſeeing, that a thorough knowledge of thoſe matters, could not fail to prove a corner-ſtone to your noble ambition. Your progreſs in it was rapid, and your diligence, which made it ſo, indefatigable. But a thorough diſapprobation at that time, both of men and meaſures, and your bold avowal of it, was, for many years, ſuch a check to your purſuit, that a leſs determined ſpirit would have hardly kept ſight of its illuſtrious object: by which is meant, ſome future poſſeſſion of a power in this country, obtained with honour, and ſupported with abilities. Yet, on the other hand, the ſtedfaſt oppoſition you gave to them, ſhewed, that you was not only endued

with the unfaſhionable virtue of ſelf-denial; but even capable of ſuffering (to uſe a ſcripture phraſe) for righteouſneſs ſake. Your commiſſion, when you had little elſe to live upon, became a forfeit to your inflexibility.

As every thing that bears your name, at this time, will be ſufficient to excite the curioſity of the public; it is to be preſumed, that I ſhall have ſome readers beſide yourſelf. For which reaſon, I thought it proper, to give this ſhort account of your conduct, upon your firſt outſet in life; in order to their better judging, whether you have been guilty of any deviations from your priſtine doctrines, tenets, or purpoſes, in the ſubſequent parts of it. And what appearances ſoever there may be

be againſt you, the preſumptions at leaſt in your favour will remain too ſtrong to be eaſily got over, by a diſpaſſionate and candid examiner. It is my own opinion, that truly great minds are pretty near as immutable, as the great *mind* of all. A conſiſtency of character and behaviour, is the natural reſult of ſuch immutability. Pride, puncto, and a ſenſe of honour, will produce it in certain men; but in thoſe of elevated ſpirits, it is a native principle. Yet, ſuppoſing you to be as frail as malice could wiſh to find, or envy repreſent you; I would be glad to aſk any of the haſty railers at the laſt ſtep you have taken, whether there is the leaſt ſemblance of probability, that any perſon, even of an inferior underſtanding to your own, after being raiſed to ſuch an exalted

pitch

pitch in the eſtimation of the people, ſhould become at once, a kind of political ſuicide; and eclipſe, himſelf, that glory and luſtre, which he was conſcious that nothing elſe could overſhadow. I can, however, no longer dwell upon the charge of a demerit in you, grounded only on ſurmiſe and inuendo; perceiving rather an additional impatience in me, to enter upon the more pleaſing ſubject of your merits, which will neither admit of doubt or contradiction. I ſhall not trouble you, good ſir, with many words; becauſe your modeſty will make you better pleaſed with few. Beſides, *pauca ſed arguté*, is a leſſon I would recommend to the obſervance of all ſcriblers. The firſt part of the precept we may with eaſe conform to; I fear the latter is above me.

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Although a merit that ſpeaks for itſelf, ſeems to require no other advocate or voucher; yet your friends at leaſt, may not be diſpleaſed, with the ſhort compariſon I am about to make, between the preſent ſtate of the war, and the inglorious circumſtances attending the commencement of it.

The French, as you know, Sir, having committed a moſt outrageous treſpaſs upon the frontiers of Nova Scotia; a proper repreſentation was made of it to our miniſters: who, as I have been told, reſented it moſt highly, and immediately ſent over very ſpirited remonſtrances to the court of France, for ſo open and unexpected a violation of a treaty, but newly made with them. Happily for us, their

their diſpatches proved fruitleſs and ineffectual. I ſay happily, becauſe it ſhews, that their counſels have been as weakly directed as their arms. For, if they had had the dexterity and foreſight of the Spaniards, in the year thirty-nine; (who, by the by, may be doing the ſame thing now) they would not only have diſavowed their governor in his proceedings, and pleaded ignorance of them; but offered, as an evidence of their ſincerity, to have recalled, and puniſhed him.

By this diſſimulation, they had gained time ſufficient, not barely to put themſelves into a poſture of defence, but to have got together ſuch a force in thoſe parts, as our utmoſt efforts would not have enabled us to reſiſt. Beſides, the aſſailant, in

in ſuch caſes, having ever an advantage over his enemy, from the ſecret conſciouſneſs of thoſe deſigns, whereof the other can ſeldom be aware; the providing of the country with every thing neceſſary to make it a place of arms, would not have been the only uſe made of ſuch an interval. For during the ſuſpenſion of their intended rupture, no arts had been unpractiſed, no means had been left untried, towards extending their intereſt and influence amongſt the *Indians*. Theſe had been very important points gained: and as we know by experience, that a *French* council is not above ſuch an inſidious piece of policy, it has really ſurprized me, that the policy ſhould be above the council.

I never read Pere Charlevoix myſelf; but have been told by one who has, that in ſome treatiſe of his, upon the ſubject in queſtion, that reverend author had let ſlip from his pen an unwary truth: by aſſerting, as I am informed, "that the "intereſts of France and England, in "North America, were utterly incom-"patible." Such a declaration was alone ſufficient to alarm this country: as it demonſtrated, that, ſooner or later, we were neceſſarily to expect, that arduous conteſt between the two nations, for ſole dominion there, in which, I thank heaven and you, we have made ſo glorious a figure. I am juſt diſcerning enough to know, Sir, that things great in themſelves, require no aggrandizing: and this reaſoning, forbids me alike, either to magnify

magnify the conqueſt, or to flatter you: but the entire reduction of that vaſt empire, (for ſo it may be called) is a moſt ſtupendous atchievement.

I ſhall take this occaſion, as the moſt proper, to aſſure you, moſt ſolemnly to aſſure you, that whatever may fall from my pen, of the encomiaſtic kind, will be as ingenuous as your own upright heart. As I have never been the ſlave of any man, I have not condeſcended either to be the flatterer of any man; which is a ſpecies of creature *below* a ſlave: becauſe a flatterer is a ſelf-created reptile.———I ſhall now purſue my ſtory.

The court of *France*, as I had obſerved, having excited at once our jealouſy and indignation, by a moſt audacious infraction of their very laſt treaty of peace with us; their inattention to the expediency of retrieving ſo unadviſed a ſtep, by all the moſt ſpecious blinds and fallacies they could invent; I will take upon me to ſay again, was a moſt fortunate event: the iſſue of our quarrel has proved it ſo: for had the contention been reſerved for a work of future times, I ſcarce perceive a poſſibility, that the vanquiſhed could then have failed of being the conquerors. Yet our own court, inſtead of availing themſelves of this overſight, by an immediate declaration of war, allowed them ample time both to ſee and rectify their miſtake. We had, it is true, juſt reſolution enough

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to make ſome repriſals on the enemy; but then all the ſhips we took, for want of a more formal annunciation of hoſtilities, were repreſented as ſo many acts of piracy; and the honour of the nation was ſo far from being vindicated by this meaſure, that it became daily expoſed to freſh impeachments. It is *Tacitus*, I think, who ſays, "that certain war is preferable to "uncertain peace, as being a ſtate of "greater ſecurity *:" but our miniſters were not of that opinion. A deſcent however, being actually made upon the iſland of *Minorca*, this matter grew a little more ſerious; and war was at laſt declared, with all the pomp and parade uſually attending ſuch ceremonies. Admiral *Byng* was appointed to the command of the

* Securius Bellum, pace dubiâ.

the ſquadron going to its relief; and nobody had the leaſt doubt, (except himſelf) but we ſhould make our enemies repent of their hazardous enterprize. The ſequel, alas! is too horrid for remembrance; and as the ſhorteſt will be the beſt account, for all true lovers of their country, of his ignominious behaviour, it may ſuffice, to tell them, that the place was loſt in conſequence of it. And yet, when I ſeem to impute the loſs of *Port Mahon*, entirely to this unfortunate gentleman, I ought to explain myſelf: becauſe, in fact, he was but an acceſſary to it. The diſappearance of the fleet, and colonel *Jeffreys*'s being ſurprized and taken priſoner, had a little alarmed and diſmayed the garriſon; but the military people then ſaid, and ſtill ſay, that theſe were no reaſons

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for ſo haſty a ſurrender of it. Why ſuch honours were heaped upon the governor when he came home, is a ſecret beyond the reach of my ſhallow penetration: and yet I will do him the juſtice to ſay, that a worthier gentleman never wore them. The conjecture that ſtrikes me moſt, and therefore ſatisfies me beſt, is, that our rulers, in order to avoid the reproach of leaving ſo important a truſt in the hands of an infirm and aged perſon, obtained for him theſe extraordinary marks of his majeſty's favour, as a proof, not only of their entire approbation of his conduct, but of their conviction, that a younger and more active commander could not have done better. But the real truth is, if they would confeſs, and a virtual confeſſion of

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it there was *, that this very conſiderable poſſeſſion of ours, had, unhappily, employed the thoughts and attention of none but our enemies. For, admitting that we had not the means of providing for its outward defence, from a want of ſhips ſufficient for that purpoſe; yet the ſmalleſt addition of internal ſtrength given to it, by reinforcing of the garriſon, would have obliged the enemy to raiſe the ſiege; and we had triumphed inſtead of the aſſailants. If what I am ſaying ſeems to caſt the leaſt reflection upon any man, the perſon ſo affected is to thank himſelf for his mortification. He will find, that the defect was in the object; for there is no foulneſs in his mirror. *Fari ut poſſit quæ ſentiat*, is a right that every man of ſpirit,

* The reſignation of ſeveral great employments.

ſpirit, will not only aſſert, but exerciſe. I have a very unfeigned love and regard for certain gentlemen concerned in the adminiſtration at that time: and if Palineurus fell aſleep, there were thoſe about him, who ought to have waked him. It is my firm opinion, that an abler, better, or more experienced man, has very rarely filled his office.——

I have already premiſed, good Sir, that my little animadverſions upon theſe matters, were not, could not be intended, for the information of a perſon ſo capable as yourſelf, of making more uſeful and judicious reflections upon them. What I had to ſay of yourſelf, I thought would not be the worſe received, for being ſaid to you. For the reſt, I am only taking the free-

dom, to make you a kind of middle man between me and the public; for the information of whom, I have undertaken this irkſome, and, it may be, thankleſs taſk.

Not very long ago, being unwarily drawn into a new diſpute, in relation to the diſgrace we had ſuffered in the Mediterranean, and the dire conſequences of it; a diſagreeable incident happened to me in the debate, a bare recollection whereof, urges me to enlarge a little upon it: and a hough Mr. Byng's ſubject cannot but be hideous from the nature, and tedious from the triteneſs of it; you will pardon me, I dare ſay, for recurring to the deteſted topic. Amongſt other things, I ſaid I had been told, that a certain great perſonage, who

who is now no more, had called him a poltroon, without hearing, or deſiring to hear, any other proof of his miſbehaviour, than his own letter. His name being afterwards mentioned, not contemptuouſly, but irreverently enough to give me offence; I ſhall bring together ſuch a deal of preſumptive evidence, in ſupport of the validity of his charge, as may prevent, for the future, any body's telling me, that it was *unwarrantable*.

This gentleman, you are to know, Sir, commanded a fleet in the Mediterranean laſt war. His commiſſion being doubly ſuitable to his temper, it pleaſed him doubly. He found the Mediterranean extremely like the more ſouthern ocean; for it proved a rich, and a *pacific* ſea. For

theſe reaſons, during the whole courſe of the preſent war, he never once ſollicited to be employed, unleſs he could have the ſame ſtation. He obtained a promiſe of it accordingly, which, to our ſorrow, as well as to his own, was fatally fulfilled. But times and circumſtances being altered, there appeared a correſpondent change too, in the mind of the admiral. He had no ſooner got on board, but he began to make woeful complaints and lamentations, that he was going to be ſacrificed. When this apprehenſion was removed, or rather, obviated, by aſſurances given him, that he would be at leaſt as ſtrong as the enemy; he had recourſe to other objections, by arraigning lord Anſon, for ſending him out with the worſt men in the whole navy; and this, before he could poſſibly

poſſibly have examined them. The extraordinary time he took, for providing the ſhips with water, at Gibraltar, gave room to ſuſpect, that part of it might be ſpent in making his own *. But the more probable reaſon, to ſpeak ſeriouſly, was, that he hoped, by this delay, to give the French Admiral ſo many more chances to hear of his approach: in conſequence of which, he was not without ſome expectation, that he would try to avoid him by a retreat.

We are come now to the deſperate engagement, in which our tongue-doughty commander, as well as his friends, declared that he had beaten the adverſe fleet; though

* The gentlemen of the navy tell me, that the firſt impreſſions of fear among the common ſailors, ſhew themſelves by profuſe evacuations of this ſort.

though he had notoriouſly left them in poſſeſſion of all they wanted; which was covering the ſiege of Philipſburg. But notwithſtanding our unfortunate chief was ſo wary in fight, he was very unwary in counſel: for he contradicted himſelf the next day. By which we have reaſon to apprehend, that his head was not much better than his heart. Having called a council of war upon this occaſion, the firſt queſtion, I believe, that he moved to the board was, whether if he returned to the charge, and attacked the enemy again, they thought it would be of any great ſervice? It was decided in the negative. But it may not be improper to obſerve in this place, that a routed or ſhattered fleet, ſeldom remains in the way of being beaten a ſecond time. Another query which Mr. Pre-

Preſident'put to the council, was, whether a total defeat of the French ſquadron, could be any ways conducive to the ſaving of Port Mahon? And it was agreed that it certainly would not. But the fallacy of this argument, is too glaring to paſs unnoticed: for the ſame reaſon would have held good, for not attacking M. Galiſſionere, if he had met him in the channel. Our admiral, I confeſs, was univerſally reputed a good mariner; but ſuch a teſtimonial gives no idea at all, of his qualifications for a commander. Though ſeamanſhip might be of uſe to him in directing his ſhip, it no ways enables a man to direct himſelf. But if we ſhould diſcover, that this very able ſeaman, had acted moſt notoriouſly unlike a ſeaman; it will beſpeak no want of candour, to conclude

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he had his private reaſon for it. Now, the renowned Mr. Boſcawen, Sir, on being properly informed of the diſpoſition made by admiral Byng that day, and his approaches to the enemy; and being aſked whether he approved of it; very modeſtly made anſwer, that he believed he ſhould have formed his attack in another manner. I think I can pretty perfectly relate what he ſaid, though I do not perfectly underſtand it. He ſhould have choſen, he ſaid, to have gone up in a line of battle a-head, to ſome appointed diſtance, from which he would have given his Captains orders to depart, like a file of muſqueteers: by which means, all his own ſhips had been equi-diſtant from thoſe they were reſpectively to oppoſe, on the ſide of the enemy.

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But this would not have ſerved our hero's purpoſe. His buſineſs was to come within the letter of fighting, and not within the letter of cowardice. And although I am no ſeaman, I think I may venture to pronounce, that he never, in all his life, trimmed or ſteered a veſſel, to ſo critical a nicety.

Though I ſhall, probably, never be in the way of hearing your ſentiments of this well meant addreſs to you; yet I ſhall flatter myſelf with the ſecret perſuaſion, of having given you a moſt thorough conviction, that there were ſome ſymptoms at leaſt, of puſillanimity about this man. But the firſt perſon in the kingdom, (who was, of courſe, the moſt immediately and ſenſibly affected by his miſdemeanour)

having been blamed for giving a prejudicate opinion upon the caſe; I ſhall certainly be very cautious of ſaying, that Mr. Byng acted like a coward; but I will for ever ſay, and inſiſt upon it, that a coward would have acted like Mr. Byng. And yet, the very beſt evidence of all remains ſtill behind. For many of the ſeamen, who were allowed to go aſhore at Gibraltar, in order to refreſh themſelves; as ſoon as ever they underſtood, that this flagitious tranſaction had been taken cognizance of at home, and the admiral was to be put under arreſt, made no ſcruple to inſult him in the ſtreet; by aſking him, in deriſion, "why he did not go, and "bury his dead." Which humorous piece of irony, ſeems ſtrongly to denote, that he had taken all due care, not to be

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in the bills of mortality, upon ſo trivial an occaſion.

This relation, I fear, may have been ſomewhat tedious: but the perſon who is the ſubject of it, (though a moſt execrable actor) having had ſo conſiderable a part, in the tragical ſcene I am exhibiting; it ſeemed ſufficiently to coincide with my general deſign, not to be thought wholly impertinent. Beſides, I have reaſon to think, that I cannot but have told the reader ſome few things, which perſons, leſs inquiſitive and ſollicitous than myſelf, about all national concerns, could not have told him. If the wrath I perceive in myſelf againſt the poor man, had been kindled in me by any other cauſe, than his not being a man, I could with eaſe

have curbed it. But he that has publicly ſuffered death, for having betrayed the intereſts of his King and Country, may very fairly be regarded, as a perſonal enemy, of all true lovers of them. That character I have aſſumed, and would invariably adhere to it, at any hazard. A luke-warm patriot, like a luke-warm friend, may make parade and boaſt of his affection; but its efficiency, in point of ſervices, I doubt, would not be great. Though the preſent times do not appear the apteſt for ſuch a confeſſion, I will own to you, Sir, that I have a little tincture of enthuſiaſm in my compoſition: and, urged by the irreſiſtable influence of it, I have indulged my reſentment of Mr. Byng's offence, with great ſcope: yet not from any hatred I bore to him, but from an abhorrence of his crime.

crime. Nor had I, perhaps, diſturbed the aſhes of the dead at all, but with a view, and hope, of giving conſolation to the living: by which I mean thoſe few of his judges, who, from miſconceived ſentiments of humanity, had felt a little compunction about the ſentence paſt upon him. Had I the pleaſure to be better known to thoſe gentlemen, they would know too, that there is not a man on earth, of a leſs fierce or ſanguinary diſpoſition than myſelf: yet I take this occaſion to aver, that had I been one of them, I could have condemned him, not only without ſcruple, but without regret. Nay more; my enmity would have followed him, even to the grave. Mr. Addiſon, I remember, puts a moſt heroic ejaculation into the mouth of his Cato, when he is ſurveying the

the body of his ſlaughtered ſon, by making him ſay, "what pity 'tis, that we can "die but once to ſerve our country!" Whether ſuch a ſentiment is not a little too refined, to be the ſuggeſtion of nature, I ſhall not take upon me to decide: but it is really a pity, in my opinion, that a man can die but once, for differving his country.

After having cloſed my evidence, and apologized for protracting it into ſo great a length; the aſking leave to ſubjoin one other circumſtance, may ſomewhat ſurprize you. It is not at all relative to the Admiral's crime, but to his character, very much ſo: becauſe it will diſcover in him, a thorough depravity of heart. As you ſat many years in parliament with

this gentleman, where you have ſeen him daily paſſing and repaſſing through the houſe; I am perſuaded, he did not eſcape your notice. And if your inſight into men be only half as quick as your penetration into other matters; you could not but obſerve, that nature herſelf ſeemed to have marked him, for all unnatural things.

The circumſtance at which I have already hinted, and am about to tell you, is, that when Admiral Matthews was tried for ſome irregularities in his conduct, whilſt he commanded in the Mediterranean, Mr. Byng was preſident of the court-martial; and this blood-thirſty warriour, whom we have proved to be cautious at leaſt of ſhedding his own, when he came to ſum up the evidence, and make report of it, departed

parted from the accuſtomed form and method of ſuch tribunals, of aſking firſt, *ſeriatim*, the ſentiments of the other judges upon it, by prematurely declaring it to be his opinion, "that Mr. Matthews's offences were capital, and he ought to ſuffer death." I think that the warmeſt of Mr. Byng's friends will not offer to extenuate ſo enormous a proceeding.

The doctrine of providence, Sir, I mean a ſpecial providence, in the direction of human affairs, is attended with ſo much doubt and perplexity, I am not become ſufficiently maſter of this point of religious faith, to be able to ſay, that I have attributed a great deal to it. But were I a more firm believer of the hypotheſis, I could with very little difficulty be perſuaded,

ſuaded, that the fate to which this infatuated wretch had at laſt expoſed himſelf, was an operation of the divine will, in the way of retribution, for the cruel wrong he had attempted to do that gallant officer. When I call him ſo, I ſpeak with authority; for Sir Charles Wager, in characteriſing him, expreſſed himſelf figuratively upon the occaſion: by ſaying, "that he was ſtout, but when he came into "action, he was not ſure, that he had quite "ballaſt enough in him:" meaning, by this metaphor, to intimate, that his courage was unqueſtionable, though he had not altogether the ſame affiance in his conduct.

Too conſcious, Sir, of my tedious detention of you in the Mediterranean, a ſea ſo unpropitious to our arms; I ſhall carry

you a long voyage, in a very ſhort time, by tranſporting you at once to North America; where our miſcarriages were not leſs alarming or diſgraceful, though, ultimately, not ſo fatal. Of the gentlemen employed upon that ſervice, we were moſt beholden to thoſe who were moſt inactive; they that did the leaſt, did the beſt: yet the *vis inertiæ*, is certainly not a force, calculated for making conqueſts. I wiſh that Mr. Braddock had been a better general, though I had been ſo much worſe a prophet: for I foretold, that if he met with any difficulty, he would indubitably be foiled and brought to ſhame. 'Twas thought, that he had never conſidered his calling as a matter of art and ſcience, in all his life. He was extremely ſuperficial, and yet proud, opinionative, and overbearing:

ing: had never liked his profeſſion, nor did any of his profeſſion like him. This laſt article of his diſqualification, for the very important truſt repoſed in him, deſerved alone, a little more attention, than ſeemed to have been paid it: for I preſume, a thorough confidence in its leader, is the very life and ſoul of an army. Suppoſing a General to be a thorough able man, I confeſs, indeed, that the ſenſible part of the officers who are to ſerve under him, may, without eſteeming him, have that implicit reliance on his conduct, ſo apparently requiſite, to promote the ſervice. But this is not the caſe of the common ſoldier, who is to be governed by his affections, and not his reaſon. The heart of ſuch a wretch, will ever be beſt reconciled to his deſperate work, when the

commander is in poſſeſſion of it. Talking of Mr. Braddock one day to a gentleman, who, during his ſhort command in the Eaſt Indies, did himſelf ſo much honour there; he could not help ſaying, that I ſeemed to have known him very thoroughly. The expoſing his army to be ſurprized and baffled by a ſmall detachment of the enemy's, conſiſting chiefly of Indians, was owing, 'tis ſaid, to his obſtinate refuſal to take with him any irregulars of that ſort; though it was generally thought, that they would have been of the utmoſt uſe to him, by ſkirting his troops during their march, and keeping off an enemy, that, as he had managed matters, gave them great annoyance, and, almoſt, without making themſelves viſible *. But his conduct

* This happened in paſſing the river Ohio.

conduct ſubſequent to the conſternation, which he ſaw the whole army thrown into, examined by the teſt of common ſenſe, ſeemed very prepoſterous. What could be expected of poor creatures, agitated by a terror, ſo naturally ſcattered among them, from beholding, at one time, an officer falling before them, and at another, their right or left hand man? and to quicken their reſentment of this horrid ſlaughter, it was made by an enemy, on whom there was not a poſſibility of their making any repriſals. For theſe reaſons, as ſoon as ever the general had tried all means of forming, or getting them forwards, and ſaw the impracticability of either, the adviſeable part next, was, ſurely, to get them back again: and, as he could not remove the panic, to re-

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move the men. I have been told, notwithſtanding, that ſome hours had paſt, before he was ſenſible of the expediency of making his retreat.—Being an exceeding gallant man, I wiſh moſt ſincerely, that he had ſurvived this unfortunate encounter; for he had ſpent the greateſt part of his life, in very diſtreſsful circumſtances; and pretty ſoon after they were become more eaſy, he loſt it. I know not how true it is, but I have been told, that when he was made captain General of his Majeſty's forces in North-America, he never before had had the command of five hundred men, upon any occaſion whatever. A colonel's commiſſion, is not to be admitted as a diſproof of this aſſertion; becauſe a man's being at the

the head of a regiment at home, is no executive command, moſt undoubtedly.

War, and the calamitous conſequences of it, making a part of thoſe unavoidable evils, to which the human paſſions have ſubjected ſocieties; and the iſſue and deciſions of it, being of the utmoſt importance to us: how peculiarly cautious ought our miniſters to be, in the choice of thoſe perſons, with whom they intruſt the care and conduct of our military operations. And I am of opinion, that the knowledge of men's characters and abilities, with a proper direction of our enquiries, is not ſo difficult to come at, as is generally thought, And yet, you want not to be told, my good Sir, that in another inſtance, beſide the preſent, we ſuffered a moſt ignominious

nious defeat, where we ought to have obtained a compleat victory.

By the foregoing account, Sir, I ſeem to have but ſhifted the ſcene, without changing my repreſentation. The fatality that had attended our miſdoings in the other hemiſphere, appeared to have made alliance with us, and accompanied our forces to America. We had been before diſpoſſeſſed of our ſtrength at Oſwego, and now failed of the repriſal we hoped to make by an attempt upon Fort du Queſne. What I am relating, is from my memory only, and that a bad one; but I think the other diviſions of our army, though conducted by gentlemen of ſufficient ſkill and proweſs, through the infinite difficulties and obſtacles, neceſſarily attending

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all military operations in ſuch a country, had done little or nothing. Under the noble Lord who was next appointed to the command of the forces, and allowed to be very capable; our army, to the beſt of my remembrance, made no movement at all. That, and every thing elſe, for I know not how long, remained in a ſtate of utter inaction.

His Lordſhip, however, having at laſt received his majeſty's orders, to make a deſcent at Cape Breton, and to take with him ſuch a part of the troops, as he ſhould think ſufficient for the enterprize; as ſoon as the tranſports could be got ready, he ſet out upon this important expedition. But the general thinking it adviſeable to have the opinions of a council of war, (which

ſcarce ever fail to end in counſels of peace) an aſſembly of this ſort was accordingly convened, in order to deliberate upon his Majeſty's inſtructions. And the reſult of the conſultation, in effect, was; that the ſenſe of his council at home, was not the ſenſe of his council abroad; for they were unanimouſly of opinion, that the laying ſiege to Louiſburg, was too hazardous an underdaking, to be attempted with any good effect to the ſervice. His Lordſhip, in conſequence of this reſolution, abandoned the enterprize, and returned to the place from whence he came. This cruel diſappointment, however, of the good King's, as well as the nation's hopes, helped to verify the paradoxical poſition I ſet out with; which was, that we never did ſo well for ourſelves, as when we were doing

doing nothing. For, during this fruitleſs, but not expenceleſs expedition, the enemy availed themſelves of our general's abſence, and took fort William Henry, upon the lake George; which could not otherwiſe have been loſt. General Webb, not having received the ſuccours he expected from the colonies, could not afford to ſend any to the neighbouring garriſon: apprehending, that the force he had with him, was barely ſufficient for the ſecurity of fort Edward: which was the only barrier, or place of defence remaining, to prevent the enemy's immediate entrance into Albany. ——If you have thought it worth your while, Sir, to attend to this mortifying relation, from beginning to end; a remark I have made upon it to myſelf, may, poſſibly, have occurred to you: which is,

that we made war, before we declared it, and, as ſoon as we had declared it, ceaſed to make it.

Into this helpleſs, hopeleſs and groveling ſtate were we ſunk, when the good genius of the nation called you forth, to attend and aſſiſt its councils: and ſeemed to tell us, that the *revocare gradum*, was a taſk and honour reſerved for Mr. Pitt. You took upon you the Herculean labour, and have performed it in a manner, that has aſtoniſhed all the world. I am aware, that I have expreſſed myſelf upon this occaſion, in an uncommon way: yet not from any affectation of figurative and pompous phraſe; but from thinking you a very uncommon man. I might, from my own breaſt derive one proof, that you cannot

cannot but have ſome great peculiarities belonging to you; becauſe I both love and envy you extremely: which are affections, that few have ever reconciled.

Having taken notice, in general terms, of the wondrous ſucceſs of our arms, under your auſpicious guidance of them: to enumerate the particular conqueſts, and acquiſitions, would, doubtleſs, be thought a work of ſupererogation. The children in the ſtreets, can recount our glorious ſpoils; and their children's children will revere you for them. I ſhall, therefore, turn my thoughts, at preſent, to the horrideſt ſubject that ever employed them: I mean, the very unnatural and ungrateful requital you have met with. I do not ſcruple to aver, abſtracted from the partiality I may have

have towards you, that any attempt to traduce a character and fame like yours, appears to me a crime, not greatly inferiour to blaſphemy: eſpecially, as the offender would be guilty only of a fooliſh piece of impiety, in one inſtance; and might do an irreparable injury in the other. But cenſure, ſays the famous doctor Swift, is a tax which all merit pays to the public: and if this, like moſt other aſſeſſments, is proportioned to what we poſſeſs, you are not to wonder, Sir, that you have been ſo highly rated. I acknowledge myſelf, notwithſtanding, to be leſs diſagreeably affected, by the perſonal injury done to you, than by the dreadful apprehenſion I have conceived, of the miſchievous tendency, to the whole, of that ſpirit of envy, ſo very

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riſe amongſt us, that it is almoſt become an univerſal paſſion. Poor virtue is already in ſuch a languid and declining ſtate, that ſhe wants every cordial and provocative that can poſſibly be adminiſtered, if we wiſh her to recover: ſhe has not the leaſt chance to live, if we ſuffer her to be brought lower. Now, fame, my good Sir, being the prime incentive to great and virtuous deeds; whatever is ſaid, or done, towards leſſening the object, in the mind of its purſuer, has a tendency to deprive the publick, of the advantages ariſing to ourſelves, from ſo laudable an ambition. For they that, animated by your example, might hereafter have become candidates for this noble prize; upon finding it of ſo precarious a tenure, would be apt to think the lubricious poſſeſſion, no longer worthy

thy, either of their care, or emulation. When this ſhall come to be the caſe, the authors of ſo lamentable a cataſtrophe, may fairly be called traitors to the community. The treatment you yourſelf have lately met with, has led me to imagine, that our proverbial maxim, which holds virtue to be its own reward; was originally grounded upon the obſervation, that it ſeldom meets with any other. And as your experience is verifying my comment upon this adage; I hope, and truſt, that your own thoughts are miniſtering to you, the comfort promiſed in the text.

In ſearching after the ſource of this fatal evil, it appeared to me to be wholly owing to the pernicious error we are in, of making dull and low-minded men learn-

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ed. Blinded by a vain prepoſſeſſion in favour of our own offspring, every mechanic thinks, that a Mercury may be made of his block, as well as another's. The poor boy, *invitâ Naturâ*, is accordingly ſent to ſome great ſchool: and the Pedagogue, under whom he has paſt his initiation, having rough-hewn the image, the deluded parent perſiſts in his folly, and ſends his idol to be finiſhed at the univerſity. When he returns from thence, what is to become of this miſguided creature! Why, inſtead of the chiſſel, his natural inheritance from the induſtrious father, he betakes himſelf to his pen; but not having the talents requiſite to make it either uſeful or entertaining, how to employ his unweildy weapon, is the point that puzzles him. Urged, at laſt,

by the little knowledge he has of human nature, and the depravity of his own, his thoughts and labours are turned entirely to abuſe. Writing, Sir, in this country, is become altogether as much a trade, as any handicraft occupation whatever. And every dealer in this dirty traffic, too ſoon appriſed of the taſte of the times, and the certainty of finding in his cuſtomers, a competent portion of the ſame curſed paſſion, which prompted himſelf to his iniquitous work; utters his poiſonous and infectious folly to his credulous readers, with ſuch unbounded licence, that nothing good, reſpectable, or ſacred amongſt men, is ſuffered to live, becauſe they muſt.

One of theſe mercenary railers at you, was gotten ſo very low in the expreſſions of his malice, that, upon my veracity, I did not underſtand the terms he uſed; he ſaid you deſerved a *ſbell*. After repeated enquiries about the ſignification of the word, I was informed at laſt, that it was a piece of cant at the gallows, when the friends of the perſon to be executed, had provided a *coffin* for him. Judge, my good Sir, whether I have not repreſented theſe peſts of ſociety very properly: when we can no longer read their ſcurrilous jargon, without the help of a gloſſary from St. Giles's——After what I have ſaid, concerning theſe inferiour drudges of the Printers; I am ſorry to tell you, that I have been acquainted with one or two

very upright, truly knowing, and able perſonages, who, from the like contracted circumſtances, have been under the ſame predicament. And as I have always been a moſt unfeigned friend and admirer, of learned and ingenious men; had a ſtate of affluence ever been my lot, the profeſſions I am now making of my good will towards them, were entirely needleſs; for, if I know myſelf at all, they would have found in me, a pretty conſiderable patron.

I am not enough acquainted with your formation and temperament, to be able to judge at all, what impreſſion theſe brutal violences may have made upon you. But leſt you ſhould be affected by them, beyond what they deſerve; I beg leave

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to preſcribe for you, an antidote to all heart-burnings ſo created. This famous recipe, Sir, directs you, to mix with your indignation, a double portion of contempt: which will ſo qualify and moderate your reſentment of moſt things, as to make them very ſupportable. I am too ſcrupulous, to recommend to you a medicine I had not tried; but I have very lately had occaſion to make uſe of this, and can aſſure you, that it moſt effectually anſwered my purpoſe.

If my experience had not long ago taught me, to wonder at nothing; how the viciſſitudes in your fortune would have ſurprized me. The *ventoſa plebs* are moſt happily deſcribed, by the celebrated poet who makes uſe of that expreſſion,

preſſion, in one ſingle epithet: becauſe they literally veer to and fro, like the winds themſelves. They that, but a month ago, thought your character the moſt emaculate in the world; now fancy on a ſudden, that they have diſcovered as many flaws and ſpots in it, as are to be found in an emblem of bad fame: whereas, if there were really any blemiſhes in it, they ought to have been regarded but like the ſpots in the ſun; which are barely left viſible, by the great aſcendant the brighter parts of its body have over them. I have been told, that ſome of the venal, virulent crew I have been mentioning, have made it matter of wonder, that you ſhould ever aſpire at being a miniſter in a country like this; where property has ſuch an abſolute influence over

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all things: alledging very emphatically, that you are not even a landed man? I moſt heartily lament the truth they tell me, yet cannot but hope their inference is falſe. For if theſe terreſtrial qualifications, are to have a preference to the moſt diſtinguiſhed ſpiritual powers, in the choice of miniſters; what is to become of us! Are you not apprehenſive, Sir, when we come to be governed by gentlemen of this deſcription only, that we ſhall find moſt of our acre-wiſe rulers, to be no better than wiſe-acres? The danger to me appears very imminent. But the advancing of this abſurd propoſition, while the dominion Sir Robert Walpole had acquired in this country, is ſo freſh in our memories, makes the ſolæciſm more glaring: for I believe it is pretty notorious,

rious, that his eſtate, originally, did not greatly exceed, the qualification requiſite for a Knight of a ſhire.

You have probably obſerved, Sir, tho' I have occaſionally rebuked, the impotent malice of the *ſcabies* of your ſlanderers, that I have not yet touched upon the ſubject of your more conſiderable accuſers. My reaſon for it is, that when the allegations of ſuch cenſors ſhall come in queſtion, I intend, as well as I am able, to give anſwers to them all. In the mean time, I hope that neither the ſpite of one, or the falſe reaſonings and ſuſpicions of the other, will give you a moment's diſquiet. Your character is above the reach, your ſpirit ſhould ſet you above the regard of both. Your fame is ſo eſta-

eſtabliſhed, that you may defy the moſt malicious of its aſſailants. Though they come armed with the panoply of falſhood and envy, thoſe inveterate enemies of all diſtinguiſhed merit, they will find their arrows recoil, and that the object is invulnerable. I am perſuaded at leaſt, that your reſentment of the outrageous indignities that have been put upon you, will neither abate of your zeal and ſollicitude for the public ſervice, or produce the leaſt change in any part of your future conduct. Men of enlarged and liberal minds can reſt ſatisfied with the conſciouſneſs of having done praiſe-worthy actions; the praiſe itſelf is but a ſecondary conſideration, and therefore of leſs account with them. The noble ſentiment Lord Sommers

bore about his escutcheon*, you bear about your heart: and though your services have necessarily made you so conspicuous, your first ambition, I dare say, was to render yourself useful to society.

Perceiving myself, notwithstanding the secret pleasure that has accompanied my labour, to grow a little weary of this friendly office; I begin to fear, that your perusal of it will not be unattended, with some similar sensations. For this reason, I shall detain you no longer now, than will be necessary to fulfil my promise, and finally release you.

The first article of the ill supported charge brought against you, is, that your measures,

* Prodesse quam conspici.

meaſures, ſince you was in power, have not been conformable to your doctrines and opinions, when you was out of power. This allegation ſeems to imply, that although a ſecond conſideration of things is thought ſo adviſable, as to be proverbially recommended to our practice; you are never to change your opinion, under the moſt thorough conviction, that you have been in an error. The inference I draw from this, to ſhew myſelf as good a logician as my adverſary, is, that what daily experience makes venial in one man, was not allowable in another. Within theſe few years, an act * paſſed in one ſeſſion of parliament, was repealed in the enſuing one: and yet I never heard, that the worthy gentleman, who thought fit to make this ſudden alteration in his meaſures, in-

* The naturalization of the Jews.

curred the leaſt cenſure or reproach, in conſequence of his inconſiſtency. Second thoughts, however, in that inſtance, did but remedy, what a previous uſe of them might have prevented. Nevertheleſs, I do not mean to reſt your cauſe upon the authority of an example or two; I can produce irrefragable reaſons, in behalf of your converſion. Practical truths depend ſo much upon circumſtances, that we are to vary our conduct, according to the variations of them. To be able to ſay what ought to be, we ſhould firſt know what is: and without intuitive powers, how could you be this entire maſter of his Majeſty's ſituation, before you was admitted to a ſhare in his counſels? Beſides, if every thing deſirable were immediately attainable, whence ariſes the tedious ſuſ-

penſion of our much longed for peace! But I ſhall endeavour to recollect the ſubſtance of part of a ſpeech you made about three years ago, when the continuation of the war in Germany came in queſtion. Not being in the houſe myſelf, you will be pleaſed, Sir, to make allowance, for the deceptions to which I am liable, both from the failure of my memory, and the miſleadings of my informer. One of your arguments, if I remember right, contained the moſt obvious and undeniable piece of good ſenſe conceivable: which was, that if we kept any troops there at all, it was adviſable to ſend more; in order to effectuate the intended ſervice of your meaſure: which, uneffected, would be attended with a diſſervice of the moſt inhuman kind. You reaſoned nobly, my good Sir;

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and nothing could be wanting, but a little fellow-feeling, to make every man in the kingdom think like yourſelf. For to ſuffer ſuch brave creatures, to oppoſe themſelves to an enemy, outnumbering them in the proportion of three to one, would have been a cruelty little inferior to a maſſacre. If I miſtake not, you pleaded farther in vindication of yourſelf, that it was not then a time to tell your private thoughts of what had been done; but to conduct yourſelf ſuitably to the circumſtances in which you found yourſelf, and make the beſt of them: that there was a concatenation of things, in reſpect of ſtate matters, that did not always admit of being ſeparately conſidered; for as much as the leaſt breach in ſuch a chain, might entirely diſconcert the whole plan. If you will allow me,

Sir,

Sir, to make a ſhort ſupplement to this very well followed argumentation; I ſhould add, that, as your own ſovereign had brought himſelf into very diſtreſsful circumſtances, by aſſerting the rights and liberties of his Engliſh ſubjects; and his great kinſman, in conſequence of his alliance with him, into much worſe; the ſituation of both ſeemed very commiſerable; and not only to deſerve, but claim, the conſideration of this country. But leſt I ſhould be miſconceived, upon the ſubject of this unpopular doctrine; it may be neceſſary ſo far to explain myſelf, as to tell the reader, it is *pro hac vice* only, that I am an advocate for it. I moſt ardently wiſh, and not without ſome degree of hope, to ſee my good countrymen come unanimouſly to a reſolution,

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never more to be the champions of Hanover, or precipitately hurried into continental wars, upon that antiquated, visionary notion, of preſerving a ballance of power in Europe. The ballance of power in Europe, is not to be maintained, by any political equation table: it is as ſure to find its level, in time, as any branch of trade. But not to leave this queſtion altogether in a problematic ſtate; you will permit me to remind you of the Dutch war, in which the weak counſels, of the weakeſt Prince that ever filled a throne, had involved his poor infatuated ſubjects. This extraordinary meaſure, ſeems to bring home the point in debate: becauſe it totally ſubverted the ridiculous ſyſtem we are talking of. And yet, what was the iſſue of that war? why our good old friends,

emerged

emerged from a ſtate, almoſt, of annihilation; and obtained pretty near as good peace for themſelves, as if they had been conquerors. We might, nevertheleſs, purſue this *ignus fatuus* to a certain length, provided we did not make ſuch vaſt ſacrifices to the phantom. But ſhould this erroneous principle again revive, and, upon being rendered a little more expedient and practicable, become again a ſtate maxim, even in that caſe, our manner of proceeding, ſuppoſing England to be the grand equilibriſt, would prove us fundamentally deficient in our praxis. Becauſe every balance is brought to it's equability, by the laſt influence given to it: whereas, it has always been our cuſtom to get into the ſcale firſt. Add to this, Sir, that, in forming any political ſyſtem, in ſupport whereof

we rely upon the aſſiſtance of other powers deemed reciprocally benefitted by it, we ſhall often be deceived. It cannot but happen that the parties to ſuch an aſſociation, allured, at different times, by views of a more immediate intereſt, will renounce their confederacy; the ſcheme of the projector, end like that of an alchemiſt; and the deviſer of it find himſelf, the bubble of his own chimera. I think, ere now, that you have anticipated the drift of this little epiſode: which has been, ultimately, to remind you, of the main condition of our laſt treaty of peace with France. By the reſtoring of Cape Breton, which was all we had got in the laſt war, we procured peace and reſtitution for both our allies: whoſe manner of requiting us, for their ſignal

and

and unexpected redemption, is never to be forgotten: Holland, in the beginning of the present war, having been something worse than neutral; and the queen of Hungary, immediately mediating and contriving the destruction of our great confederate. The object you perceive, Sir, under our present consideration, was, in this instance, totally lost sight of; and seemed to have no more real existence in it than the scales in the Zodiac: for the two forementioned states, were formerly the most considerable of our balance-masters. ——A query, whether any thing so vague and fluctuating, as the point in question, be worthy of our further attention, is the natural conclusion of my theorem.——

I am at laſt returned to a ſubject much more intereſting, though, in itſelf, leſs pleaſing: being about to tell you, that your mortal ſin, with the public, is your having taken a penſion. To which I anſwer, that the principle of ſelf-denial is a virtue that we may with eaſe lay claim to, while we aſſert it only at the expence of others: but it is indubitably the caſe, wherein ſpeculation and practice, will always differ moſt. And I am as much convinced, as I am of my being, that of all the carping, cavilling multitude, who have condemned you for taking this penſion, not a ſingle man would have himſelf refuſed it. It is farther to be obſerved, that, on the one hand, not a ſoul was intereſted, in your declining his Majeſty's bounteous offer; and, on the other, that nature, honour, and com-

mon prudence, jointly called upon you to accept it. 'Tis the buſineſs, I ſhall not expreſs myſelf improperly, if I ſay it is the duty of every man, to make the beſt of his being, in his natural capacity; and the moſt of his abilities, in his ſocial one. The exertion of your abilities, Sir, we have ſo ſenſibly felt, that the whole nation have expreſſed their ſenſe of them: but your virtuous labours being ſeemingly at an end; we are, at preſent, very modeſtly and gratefully requiring of you, to leave yourſelf, the only perſon, unbenefitted by them. The urgency of your provocation to withdraw yourſelf from council, is ſufficiently evinced, by the ſacrifice you made, to your reſentment of what was doing there, For if, upon mercenary motives, you reſigned an em-

ployment

ployment of five or ſix thouſand pounds a-year, for a penſion of three; you may be a great Stateſman, Sir, but you are a moſt ſorry Arithmetician.

The imputation next attempted to be fixed upon you, is, that you have been too abſolute and headſtrong: which article of your impeachment, is partly admitted, and in part denied. That you have not been abſolute, we have reaſon to lament; but that you are headſtrong, we allow. Our enemies have felt that ſtrength, the nation has applauded, your king requited, and only your competitors for power, decried it.

This relation having been interſperſed with many marks of my partiality for you;

you; you will eaſily believe, that the giving you up in any point, cannot fail to be attended with great mortification to me. And yet, there is a part of your indictment ſtill remaining, to which I could ſay very little for you: I mean, the inſupportable expences of this war. For if you had ſubdued (as, to be ſure, you might have done) the moſt formidable power in Europe, without the uſe of arms; or employed thoſe arms, without the uſe of money; your merit towards us, had been, doubtleſs, much greater, than it is at preſent.

I was not aware of my overſight till this moment; but I have greatly miſmanaged the conduct of my apology for you, in reſerving, for the laſt, an allegation,

tion, to which, as your attorney, I was obliged to plead guilty. The arrogant intimation you have given the public, of your having had the direction of his Majeſty's councils, for ſome time paſt, is wholly inexcuſable: becauſe, knowing it to be a moſt profound ſecret; as a cabinet-counſellor, you certainly ought not to have diſcloſed it. Raillery apart, the extravagant futilities I have been peſtered with, in the guiſe of arguments, upon a moſt plain and ſimple queſtion, are ſo far from entitling the advancers of them, to be ſtiled reaſoners; that they are ſo many violences done to reaſon: which is the eſſence of all truth. And thence, I preſume, it is, that the Deity himſelf, according to the ſcriptures, is called reaſon.

To

To bring this motly narrative to a concluſion; I ſhall endeavour to requite my own labors, with the ſecret ſatisfaction of telling myſelf, you cannot but have obſerved, in the courſe of it, that my eyes have been upon you for almoſt thirty years paſt: and, in conſequence of this obſervation, that you have done me the juſtice likewiſe to notice, the manifeſt impoſſibility of one man's ingroſſing the attention of another ſo long, without a conſiderable ſhare of his regard. And to tell you true, I have not only loved you a great while, but in a peculiar manner. The capricious likings of perſons of different ſexes, are ſo very natural, and, beſides, ſo common; that where they excite any wonder, the admirer himſelf is

to be wondered at. But the friendſhips, formed by a ſympathetic attraction, and, as it were, an intuitive impulſe, are not ſo frequent. And yet, it was by ſome ſecret influence of this ſort, that you became at firſt poſſeſſed of my eſteem. That this attachment was not wholly void of vanity and ſelf-love, I am ready to confeſs: my firſt propenſity towards it, having ariſen from ſeeing, or thinking I ſaw, great reſemblance of myſelf in you.

I have, in the opening of this letter, made known, that I had formerly ſat in parliament with you; and am at preſent lamenting, but chiefly upon your account, that I did not, in deſpite of my miſuſage, keep my ſeat there. In ſuch a ſcene of action, you might have had more ample

proofs

proofs of my friendſhip for you: becauſe "my deeds would have borne witneſs of "me." And though the repeated checks and traverſes of an untoward fortune, had, very long ago, exhauſted my broken and dejected ſpirit; I ſhould have found ſome means, even in the capacity of one of your mutes, to have occaſionally done you ſome little credit. Animated likewiſe by your example, that ſpirit of emulation, which, in my younger days, I perceived ſo active in my boſom, as almoſt to diſquiet it; might have again taken place there; and, with a kind of elaſtic force, created by its former preſſures, ſprung with redoubled vigour. Ambition, that inconſiſtent ſource of good and evil, had, even at the Univerſity, taken root in me: And if I was not groſsly flattered there,

few, if any requiſites were thought wanting in me, for the gratification of it. Yet, unfortunately, not being my own maſter, by an arbitrary and perverſe direction of my little talents afterwards, to a ſtudy moſt invincibly diſtaſteful to me; thoſe gifts of nature degenerated into curſes: and, like Narciſſus's beauty, became the ruin of their poſſeſſor.—But it is neither ſafe, nor ſeemly, for an afflicted perſon, to expatiate over much, upon the ſubject of himſelf: I ſhall, therefore, no farther treſpaſs on my reader.

Let me conjure you, finally, my good Sir, moſt firmly to ſuſtain your pride: becauſe I am experimentally convinced, that your pride will help to ſuſtain you. I mean that virtuous pride, which dwells in every

every well-formed heart, and is the only friendly paſſion belonging to our nature. It is, in truth, a manly principle, and not a paſſion: ſoothing and ſupporting us, under the wrongs we ſuffer; and ſtaying us, when the more frail parts of our conſtitutions are ſtriving for the aſcendant, and might, otherwiſe, tempt us to the doing of them. Reſt contented, Sir, with the character you bear amongſt us; and the Nobility * imparted to you by your virtue: which no worldly honours can equal, nor any worldly power abaſe.

I moſt fervently wiſh your well being, and the continuance of that being. Your only

* An expreſſion of Juvenal's.

only misfortune, hitherto, is having made yourself too enviable: and your only fault, like that of Miltiades, being too popular. "Your crown did fear their "eyeballs."

FINIS.